

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1122

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John William Forgety upon his retirement as the Director of Schools for the McMinn County School System.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding leaders who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, John William Forgety is one such estimable person who has enjoyed a distinguished career in education, having served with probity as Director of Schools for the McMinn County School System for sixteen illustrious years; he will be taking a much deserved retirement in June of 2008; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exceptional tenure as Director of Schools for the McMinn County School System, John Forgety rendered sterling service as the principal of Charleston School, grades K-12, from 1991 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville and a graduate of Carter High School, Mr. Forgety earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Physical Education from Maryville College and a Master of Arts degree and an Education Specialist degree in Education Administration and Supervision from Tennessee Technological University; he also obtained a Doctorate in Education from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and talents to numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of School Administrators, the Tennessee Political Action Committee, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the McMinn County Administrators Association, and the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents; additionally; he has been an active member of the National Education Association and the Tennessee Education Association for twenty-six years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving the students of Tennessee, John Forgety also lent his innumerable skills in service to his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1967 until 1968 and as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard from 1985 until his retirement in 2006; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, Mr. Forgety served with the 1/278 Armored Cavalry Regiment from 1985 until 1994, with the 2/117 Regional Training Institute from 1995 until 2000, and with the RHHT 278 Regimental Combat Team from 2001 until 2006; and

WHEREAS, he garnered many distinguished honors for his significant achievements in the military, including the Army Achievement Medal for Meritorious Service in 1999, the Army Commendation Medal for Exceptional Service in 2001, and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2003; and

WHEREAS, for his service in Iraq from May of 2004 until December of 2005, John Forgety deservingly received the Legion of Merit for Exceptionally Meritorious Service, the Bronze Star Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service, and the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal for Highest Distinguished Service; and

WHEREAS, he nobly led a program to provide shoes, school supplies, and clothing for Iraqi children in the Diyala Province of Iraq and was awarded the Frontiers of Freedom Award for service on the Iraq/Iran border; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from Iraq, he spoke to numerous civic organizations, churches, and governmental entities both locally and across the State about the deployment and the service of our soldiers to our nation, while showing video footage depicting life in Iraq and of our American soldiers while serving there; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forgety voluntarily initiated and facilitated a program in McMinn County made possible by legislation in the Tennessee General Assembly which awarded high school diplomas to World War II veterans whose education was interrupted by the War; the program resulted in about 100 McMinn County World War II veterans receiving their diplomas; and

WHEREAS, a man who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, John Forgety has generously donated his time and energies to many community, civic, professional, and governmental organizations, including the Athens Area

Chamber of Commerce, the Meridian Sun of F&AM, the McMinn County Republican Party, the McMinn County Fair Association, the Etowah Regional Planning Committee, the McMinn County Economic Development Authority, the Korean War Commemorative Community Program Committee, the McMinn Chapter of the American Cancer Society, the McMinn Federal Credit Union, the Athens Kiwanis Club, the McMinn County Community Anti-Drug Coalition, the McMinn County Financial Management Committee, the McMinn County Planning Committee, and the McMinn County Education Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Forgety has lent his astute leadership as a member of the Advisory Board for the Task Force for Summer Youth Camp, also known as the proposed “Boot Camp” for youth offenders in McMinn County; additionally, he moderated and facilitated the McMinn County Academic Olympics, served as President of the Four Lanes for U.S. Highway 411 Coalition, initiated and chaired the McMinn County Teachers Sick Leave Bank, and chaired and conducted the Youth Government Day and Luncheon in McMinn County; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, John Forgety is the recipient of the 1996 E. Harper Johnson Award for Educational Excellence, the 1999 Mason of the Year Award for District 17, the Southeast District Superintendent of the Year for 2006, Tennessee’s Superintendent of the Year Award for 2007, the Man of the Year 2006 J. Neal Ensminger Award sponsored by the *Daily Post Athenian*, and the Colonel Aide de Camp award, presented by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2004; and

WHEREAS, John Forgety exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community, and the dedication to professional excellence that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated educator and community leader who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend John William Forgety on his exceptional service to education in Tennessee as Director of Schools for the McMinn County School System, recognize him on the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success in all of his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.